

Message Text

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USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

CINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 14314

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PARM, NATO, UR, GE

SUBJ: BREZHNEV, HONECKER ON MBFR EUROPEAN PARTY CONGRESS

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1. SUMMARY. IN TERMS OF POMP AND PANOPLY RECEPTION BEING

ACCORDED TO HONECKER OUTDISTANCES THAT GIVEN TO ANY RECENT FOREIGN VISITOR AND COMPARES FAVORABLY WITH THAT ACCORDED PRESIDENT NIXON IN JUNE 1974. PRESUMABLY, PURPOSE OF THIS LAVISH RECEPTION IS TO EMPHASIZE IMPORTANCE OF NEWLY SIGNED TREATY.

THOUGH SIGNATURE OF NEW MUTUAL ASSISTANCE TREATY (SEPTEL) IS CLEARLY THE MAIN ATTRACTION DURING THE CURRENT HONECKER VISIT TO MOSCOW, WE NOTICE SEVERAL INTERESTING BYPLAYS ON OTHER ISSUES--ESPECIALLY MBFR AND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTY CONFERENCE--IN SOVIET AND GDR STATEMENTS LEADING UP TO AND DURING THE VISIT. THE SED IS TRUMPETING ITS ADULATION OF THE CPSU AS THE GUIDING LIGHT FOR ALL OTHER COMMUNIST PARTIES, AT THE SAME TIME STRESSING THE NEED FOR UNITY IN THE INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT, ALL IN APPARENT SUPPORT OF THE SOVIET POSITION ON THE EUROPEAN CONFERENCE. BUT THE GDR AND MOSCOW SEEMINGLY CONTINUE TO SEE NOT EXACTLY EYE TO EYE ON MBFR. END SUMMARY.

2. DIPLOMATIC CORPS HERE IS TREMENDOUSLY STRUCK BY LAVISH RECEPTION CURRENTLY ACCORDED TO GDR PARTY-GOVERNMENT DELEGATION HEADED BY HONECKER. VIRTUALLY ENTIRE POLITBUREAU TROOPED TO AIRPORT TO WELCOME EAST GERMAN GROUP AND ALSO ATTENDED LOVE-FEST RECEPTION AT ST. GEORGE'S HALL OF THE KREMLIN. TOASTS AT RECEPTION, WHICH LASTED MORE THAN AN HOUR, CARRIED IN FULL ON SOVIET TV, BREZHNEV SEEMED IN MODERATELY GOOD FORM READING LENGTHY TOAST, BUT SUFFERED FROM USUAL DIFFICULTIES IN ENUNCIATION AND DRYNESS OF THE MOUTH. PURPOSE OF THIS ALL-OUT COMRADELY TREATMENT IS PRESUMABLY MUTUAL ASSISTANCE.

3. MBFR. PRAVDA ON OCTOBER 5 CARRIES A LENGTHY PIECE BY WILLY STOPH ("TOWARD NEW VICTORIES") ON GENERAL SUBJECT OF 26TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GDR AND THAT STATE'S WELTANSCHAUUNG. CONTINUING THE GDR'S HARD LINE OF CSCE AND EUROPEAN SECURITY, HE STATES "THE GDR WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE ITS CONTRIBUTION, WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF OUR COORDINATED FOREIGN POLICY (I.E., WITHIN WARSAW PACT FRAMEWORK), TO EFFORTS AIMED AT GIVING DETENTE AN IRREVERSIBLE CHARACTER. AT THE SAME TIME, WE DO NOT LOSE SIGHT OF THE FACT THAT CERTAIN IMPERIALIST CIRCLES HAVE NOT CEASED THEIR EFFORTS AIMED AT TORPEDOEING CONFIDENTIAL

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THE RESULTS OF HELSINKI...IN QUESTIONS OF DISARMAMENT WE CONSEQUENTLY ADVOCATE A SOLUTION WHICH TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THE SECURITY OF ALL STATES. AT THE SAME TIME, UNTIL SUCH EFFECTIVE MEASURES ARE BROUGHT INTO BEING, WE WILL DO EVERYTHING NECESSARY IN THE TESTED FRAMEWORK OF THE WARSAW PACT TO GUARANTEE THE MILITARY DEFENSE OF OUR SOCIALIST HOMELAND...".

4. HONECKER EXHIBITED A SIMILAR RELUCTANCE TO DISCUSS MBFR IN HIS ANSWERING SPEECH TO BREZHNEV DURING THE KREMLIN RECEPTION OCTOBER 6. BREZHNEV HAD MADE AN INDIRECT THOUGH CLEAR REFERENCE TO MBFR ("AS THE TASK OF TASKS WE NOW SEE THE MOVE TO PRACTICAL STEPS IN THE EFFORT TO STOP THE ARMS RACE AND IN REDUCTION OF ARMAMENTS AND ARMED FORCES.") BY CONTRAST, HONECKER SIMPLY ADMITTED THAT NEED EXISTS TO SUPPLEMENT POLITICAL DETENTE WITH DETENTE IN THE MILITARY AREA, THEN PRAISED THE TWO RECENT SOVIET ARMS CONTROL INITIATIVES AT THE UNGA.

5. ON THE OTHER HAND, IN TV APPEARANCE THE EVENING OF OCTOBER 5, HONECKER COMMENTED THAT "THE GDR, TOGETHER WITH THE USSR AND THE OTHER FRATERNAL SOCIALIST STATES, WILL CONTINUE TO DO EVERYTHING IN THE FUTURE TO ENSURE THAT POLITICAL DETENTE IS SUPPLEMENTED BY DETENTE IN THE MILITARY AREA. DISCUSSION HERE IS MAINLY ON THE QUESTION OF STOPPING THE ARMS RACE, OF FINDING A WAY TO LIMIT ARMAMENTS AND ARMED FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE...". BUT IT IS PERHAPS NOTEWORTHY THAT EVEN IN THIS INSTANCE HONECKER SPOKE ONLY OF "LIMITING," NOT OF REDUCING.

6. EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTY CONFERENCE. THIS DIFFIDENCE IS ENTIRELY ABSENT WHEN IT COMES TO INTERNATIONAL PARTY AFFAIRS. THE PRAVDA REPORT OF THE OCTOBER 6 HONECKER MEETING WITH THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP INCLUDES THE STATEMENT THAT "DURING THE COURSE OF NEGOTIATIONS SPECIAL ATTENTION WAS DIRECTED TO THE NEED FOR UNITY OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST AND WORKERS MOVEMENT ON THE BASIS OF THE PRINCIPLES OF MARXISM-LENINISM AND PROLETARIAT INTERNATIONALISM." HONECKER, IN HIS OCTOBER 6 SPEECH, CALLS THE OTHER COMMUNIST PARTIES OF THE WORLD TO ORDER IN EVEN CLEARER FASHION: "WE PROCEED FROM THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE RICH AND EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE OF CONFIDENTIAL

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THE CPSU AND THE SOVIET STATE IN THE BUILDING OF SOCIALISM AND COMMUNISM HAS UNIVERSAL SIGNIFICANCE. WE REGARD RECOGNITION OF THIS TRUTH AS AN ELEMENT OF PROLETARIAN INTERNATIONALISM." HONECKER ALSO HARKS BACK TO ERNST THAELMAN, "WHO SAW IN THE RELATIONSHIP OF EACH COMMUNIST TO THE PARTY OF LENIN, TO THE FIRST WORKERS AND PEASANTS' STATE, A TEST OF THAT COMMUNIST'S INTERNATIONALIST POSITION."

7. COMMENT. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE SED HAS BEEN ACTING AS SPOKESMAN FOR CPSU INTERESTS IN THE TROUBLED PREPARATIONS FOR A EUROPEAN COMMUNIST CONFERENCE, BUT SUSPECT THAT SOVIET AND GDR VIEWS ON MBFR ARE AT VARIANCE IN YET UNDETERMINED WAYS. THE HONECKER VISIT HAS SO FAR TENDED TO CONFIRM BOTH JUDGMENTS.
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